



# 2010 COMMUNITY REPORT

To the citizens of South King County

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DAVE UPTHEGROVE

### Dear friends and neighbors:

The 2010 Legislative Session has come to a close, and I wanted to take the opportunity to report back to you on some local accomplishments.

**My focus this year has been on JOBS.** The road to economic recovery begins when people are able to find and keep good, living-wage jobs. I'm pleased to report that the Legislature took action this year to bolster job creation and help strengthen South King County's economy.

We live in one of the best regions of the state. I was born and raised in South King County, and it is an honor to be able to give back to the community where I grew up by serving as a state representative.

Although the Legislature has adjourned, I invite you to email, write or call with any questions, concerns or feedback. I'm always happy to meet in person at a local coffee shop if you prefer. I am only in Olympia for a few months each year. The rest of the time I am back home in the community dealing with the same kinds of day to day issues and challenges as everyone else.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave".

Dave Upthegrove

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**BURIEN • DES MOINES • KENT • NORMANDY PARK • SEATAC**

# 2010 COMMUNITY REPORT

## JOBS & ECONOMY

### HIGHLINE **PORT JOBS PROGRAM SAVED**



Over the past decade, more than 14,000 South King County job seekers have turned to Port Jobs ([www.portjobs.org](http://www.portjobs.org)) for assistance with employment training and placement. This successful nonprofit is a valuable community resource for career-seekers. But last year, a preliminary state audit questioned whether the Port of Seattle could provide funding and office space to Port Jobs. State law says port districts can contract with nonprofits for economic development, but it wasn't clear if the Port Jobs program qualified as "economic development."

I sponsored legislation that clarified the law, so that Port Jobs can continue matching local port-related employers with workers. The bill passed into law, and Port Jobs is no longer in jeopardy.



### **QUALITY OF LIFE = GOOD JOBS**



In order to have good jobs and a strong local economy, we need to keep South King County a great place to live and work. As Chairman of the House Ecology & Parks Committee, I will continue to push for resources to keep our community healthy and livable.

- **Pollution funding for local cities**

Several local cities — including Des Moines and Normandy Park — were recently awarded state grants to help address toxic runoff that threatens Puget Sound. This money is being put right to work pinpointing sources of pollution entering our local waterways. A healthy Puget Sound is vital to the economy of our region.

- **Clean and safe soil for schools and daycares**

In other good news, funding for cleanup of contaminated playground soils has been protected in the budget. Years ago, arsenic pollution from the Asarco copper smelter in Tacoma settled into soils around our Region. Some of the highest levels of arsenic have been found in the soil in Normandy Park. I passed legislation a few years ago to clean up the areas where children are most likely to encounter these contaminants—playgrounds. Continued funding for this cleanup program is essential to keep our kids safe.

## GOING TO BAT FOR BALL FIELDS

Within Sea-Tac Airport's "runway protection zone" are several athletic fields where Highline-area children play Little League sports. For years, the Port of Seattle has leased the fields to the Little League organization at a discount rate.

The state Auditor recently questioned the low lease rate. Federal law already allows airport operators to make airport property available for public use at less than market value, so I sponsored a bill to align our state law with the federal law. The measure passed overwhelmingly. This bill meant a lot to me personally because as a child I played Little League on those very fields, and I want future generations to have the same opportunity.



*Rep. Dave Upthegrove,  
Highline Little League  
circa 1980*

# STATE REP. DAVE UPTHEGROVE

## JOBS & ECONOMY

### KENT

#### KEEPING TRAFFIC MOVING IN KENT

The economy of the Kent Valley depends upon a transportation system that works. In Kent, the SR 516/SR 167 interchange has become an infamous bottleneck. This year, we took a step forward in addressing traffic flow issues in that area. As a member of the House Transportation Committee, I pushed for the state transportation budget to include funding for pre-construction work in this corridor. This will position the City to compete for additional state or federal funds to construct the identified improvements to keep traffic moving.



*Traffic often backs up at the Willis Street off-ramp off SR 167.*

#### SUPPORTING KENT VALLEY BUSINESSES

Did you know the Kent Valley is the second largest warehouse region on the West Coast? Tens of thousands of jobs are located here, as well as billions of dollars in economic activity. When the Army Corps of Engineers warned about increased flooding risk in the region, we moved quickly to help protect the safety and economic vitality of the region.



*The Kent Valley warehouse & industrial areas: billions in economic activity.*

- **Flood Insurance for Local Businesses**

I co-sponsored a bill – which has been signed into law – to give the state Insurance Commissioner the authority to create something called a Joint Underwriting Agreement. This is like an insurance cooperative that will enable businesses to purchase supplemental flood insurance at an affordable rate. To retain and attract businesses and jobs in Kent, we need to make sure that flood insurance is available.

- **Levee Repairs to Protect the Valley Floor**

I made sure the state's Construction Budget included specific language to help identify a funding source to pay for recertification of the levees along the Green River. Certified levees are accredited by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as providing the required level of flood protection. Strong, secure levees will give businesses the confidence to keep locating here, and provide some job stability for the region.

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE DAVE UPTHEGROVE

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### THE JOBS ACT OF 2010

The Legislature passed the Jobs Act of 2010, which would create 30,000 construction jobs making energy-efficiency upgrades and retrofits to public school buildings around the state. What kinds of projects in our community could potentially qualify for this measure?

- Replacing the old and inefficient heating and cooling systems at Des Moines Elementary and the Tyee Campus
- Upgrading the entire lighting system at Neely-O'Brien Elementary School
- Installing energy-efficient windows at Kent-Meridian High School

The next stop for this bill is the voters of Washington. It will appear on the November ballot so that the people of our state can decide whether or not we want the state to sell bonds to fund these types of projects.

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local results:  
JOBS & THE  
ECONOMY

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